



The Genius Of Freemasonry

J. D. Buck

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Full title: The Genius Of Free-Masonry And The Twentieth-Century Crusade. Published in Chicago in 1907 by J.D. (Jirah Dewey) Buck, 1838-1916, Author Of "Mystic Masonry" And "A Study Of Man"

Dedication:

"for the Good of Masonry" in the interest of freedom and fraternity, Light, Liberty and Love against--- Ignorance, Superstition, and Fear, Clericalism, Despotism, and Jesuitism.

Contents:

Foreword: To Freemasons—Introduction: By T. K—To Catholics—The Grand Architect of the Universe—The Genius of Freemasonry—Freemasonry as an Institution—Freemasonry as a Fraternity—Freemasonry as a Science of Ethics—Freemasonry as a Philosophy of Life—Freemasonry as a Great School—The Origin of Freemasonry as a School of Progressive Moral Science—Freemasonry as a Great Work—Freemasonry as a World Power versus Clericalism—Facts and References—The Pope's Politics—The Real Issues—The Balance of Power—Roman Clericalism: A Menace to Civilization: The Worst Enemy of Man—The Crusade

Foreword:

To Freemasons.

This little book has been written in answer to the oft-repeated question—"Has any brother anything to offer for the good of Masonry?" The following pages are the author's answer to that question. He can hardly hope that every brother Mason will agree with his views of either Freemasonry or Clericalism. All he asks is that they read and consider the facts herein set forth and their logical bearing on the signs of the times and the living issues of the day.

While he has endeavored to make the matters herein discussed exceedingly plain, and has re-stated the same problems in various forms (sometimes, perhaps, at the expense of mere literary form in composition) he feels that failure at that point is of little consequence compared with clearness as to principles involved. He feels that no intelligent brother need be in any doubt as to what the author is driving at, how he regards it, or what—for one—he proposes to do about it.

The issues involved are so momentous, striking as they do at the very foundations of our whole civilization, that to evade, obscure, or ignore them entirely, as many do, seems to the author little short of criminal. The earnestness he feels regarding these issues and their present immanence, must account for the emphasis employed in handling them.


Good men may indeed differ as to dogma and individual opinions regarding matters of philosophy or theology. But when men differ as to Freedom or Despotism; the rights of conscience or the enslavement of the human soul, when the issues are clearly defined and well understood, and the decision is deliberately made and we have taken sides; then, indeed, there can be no compromise, no quarter shown. Then it is war, uncompromising, and must be fought to victory, defeat, or destruction.

Clericalism has been made herein to tell its own story and define its own claims. Hence it stands, as three men once stood near the coast of Joppa, convicted by the imprecations of their own mouths. In its efforts to destroy Liberty in Russia and southern Europe, Clericalism has impoverished and embittered the people, converted Catholics into atheists— according to their own accounts—and virtually has destroyed itself. It is now inaugurating in America the same crusade in which it has met defeat everywhere else.

If these things are so— and no honest or well posted individual can deny them — nothing on earth or

amongst men can transcend them in importance. The reader who goes carefully over the following pages is left free to form his own conclusions and determine his own line of action. The author regards the view of Freemasonry herein set forth as equally true, and equally important. In a former work, "Mystic Masonry", published nearly ten years ago, very similar views of Masonry were set forth.

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